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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

UPON THE

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE

DISTRICT DURING YEAR 1949.

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FRIEND & NORTHFIELD, GRAMMAR SCHOOL WALK, HUNTINGDON.

TO THE GODMANCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL.

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MR. MAYOR, ALDERMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1949.

As this will be my last report as your Medical Officer I wish to record my grateful thanks to the Members of the Council, your Clerk and staff, for the kindness, consideration and support which has been extended to me during my three years in office.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

E. T. SHENNAN.

Staff.

Medical Officer of Health :

E. T. SHENNAN, M.B., Ch B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

F. G. LANE, A.M.I.S.E.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area	...	...	...	4,956 acres.
Estimated Population (Mid 1948)				2,354
			(Mid 1949)	2,404
Number of Inhabited Houses (end 1949)				
per Rate Book	...	...		738
Rateable Value	...	...		£10,286
Value of Penny Rate	...	...		£40 1 1.

Vital Statistics.

LIVE BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate	21	19	40	Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population 17.05
Illegitimate	1	—	1	(Ditto for England and Wales)...
	—	—	—	... 16.7
Total	22	19	41	

STILL BIRTHS.

Legitimate	1	—	1	Rate per 1,000 estimated population ...	0.41
Illegitimate	—	—	—	(Ditto for England and Wales)...	0.39
Total	1		1		

DEATHS (all ages)	31	Death-rate per 1,000 estimated population	12.9
		(Ditto for England and Wales)...	11.7

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

No. 29	Puerperal and post abort. sepsis	Nil
No. 30	Other maternal causes	Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR				M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	—	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total				—	—	—

DEATH-RATES OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	—
(Ditto for England and Wales)	...	...	32
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			—
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			—

DEATHS FROM CANCER (all ages)	...	...	6
DEATHS FROM WHOOPING COUGH (all ages)	...	...	—
DEATHS FROM MEASLES (all ages)	...	...	—
DEATHS FROM DIARRHOEA (under 2 years of age)	...	...	—

Causes of Death.

(Registrar-General's Short List)

List No.	Cause			Male	Female
6	Tuberculosis of resp. system	...	...	1	2
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	—	—
13	Cancer of uterus (F)	...	...	—	1
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	—	—
15	Cancer of breast	...	...	—	—
16	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	2	3
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	2	1

19	Heart diseases	...	...	...	6	4
20	Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	—	—
21	Bronchitis	...	...	...	2	—
22	Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	1
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	—	—
27	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	—	—
28	Nephritis	...	...	...	—	1
31	Premature birth	...	...	...	—	—
32	Con: mal: birth inj: infant: dis:	...	...	...	1	—
33	Suicide	...	...	...	—	—
34	Road traffic Accident	...	...	...	1	—
35	Other violent causes	...	...	...	—	1
36	All other causes	...	...	...	1	—
					<hr/>	
	All causes	...	...	...	17	14

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The following laboratory facilities have been available to this Authority and to General Practitioners in the Area:—

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road,
Cambridge. Tel. Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst (S. Greenburgh, P.H.D., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.)
Tenison Road, Cambridge. Tel. Cambridge 2097.

(b) AMBULANCE SERVICES.

(i) Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service run in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctor's orders. (Tel. Huntingdon 67).

(ii) An ambulance stationed at Huntingdon Isolation Hospital has been available for cases of infectious disease. (Tel. Huntingdon 59).

(c) HOME NURSING.

A nurse-midwife residing in Godmanchester (Tel. H'don 609) employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council carried out Home Nursing and attended maternity cases in the Borough.

(d) CLINICS. *See over.*

(i) The following health services are provided by the Huntingdon County Council.

Clinics.	Patients Seen.	When Held	Where Held
MINOR AILMENTS.	Schoolchildren.	Every Mon. 9-30 to 10-30 a.m.	In the Hut at the rear of the Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.
INFANT WELFARE	Children (0-5 years)	Every Tues. 2-4 p.m.	
DENTAL	Pre-School and Schoolchildren Pre-natal and Nursing Mothers	Every Wed. (except 2nd in month) & every Sat. 10 a.m. - 12 noon (by appointment)	10, Princes Street, Huntingdon

(ii) The following Health Services are now the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board are administered on an agency basis by the Huntingdon County Council :

OPHTHALMIC	Pre-School and Schoolchildren	1st & 3rd Fridays in the mth. (By appointment except in emergency) 10-30 a.m. to 12 noon 2 to 4 p.m.	Old Grammar School Huntingdon
ORTHOPAEDIC	Pre-School and Schoolchildren	2nd & 4th Tuesdays in month (By appointment) 10 a.m. to 12 noon.	do.

Clinics.	Patients Seen.	When Held	Where Held
CHEST	All ages.	Every Monday 2-30 to 3-30 p.m.	County Hospital, Huntingdon
(iii) The following Health Services are provided by the Regional Hospital Board.			
VENEREAL DISEASES	All cases.	Tuesdays at 3 p.m. Thursdays at 7 p.m. Males : Wed. & Fri. 4-6 p.m. Females : Wed. 4-6 p.m. Fridays 10-12 noon.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge 28, Fitzwilliam St., Peterborough

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric Skin, Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental Out-Patient Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(e) HOSPITAL SERVICES.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, all hospitals in the area came under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

FEVER. Huntingdon Isolation Hospital provides facilities for the investigation and treatment of infectious diseases.

GENERAL HOSPITAL SERVICES are provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

MATERNITY CASES can be admitted to Paxton Park Maternity Home, St. Neots. Admissions are arranged through the County Medical Officer.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER.

The piped water supply purchased in bulk from Huntingdon Borough Council remained satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Average consumption in the Borough is 42,819 gallons per day, i.e. 17.77 gallons per head.

The bacteriological quality of the water was supervised by the producer authority. In addition two samples were taken for bacteriological analysis within the Borough. These were satisfactory.

Estimated No. of Dwellings supplied:—

Direct from Main supply	...	441
By stand pipes	...	110
By public or private wells	...	187

Estimated population supplied:—

Direct from Main Supply	...	1,433
By stand pipes	...	400
By public or private wells	...	637

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Drainage arrangements of the Borough remained the same—totally inadequate. Little change in the ditch treatment of sewage has occurred since 1887. The number of W.Cs. connected to the existing system continued to increase—466 W.Cs. serving 358 dwellings. Bi-weekly collection of night-soil from 385 dwellings continued. Disposal of night-soil has caused some concern as the pit in use—an unsatisfactory method of disposal in any case—was near to overflowing. Alternative means of disposal have been under consideration.

A Public Inquiry was held into the Joint Sewerage Scheme with Huntingdon Borough, on 19th July, 1949. Since the inquiry the Ministry informed the Borough that the scheme was approved in principle. It has not been possible to proceed further until the question of grants towards the cost of the scheme have been decided by the Ministry and County Council.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This is carried out by a Scammel refuse collector once weekly and disposed of on a dump in the Borough.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

BATHING STATION. Analysis of the river water at the Bathing Station proved the state of pollution to have been maintained and it was decided that there was no change in the circumstances which merited the decision not to open it to the public last year. It was decided, therefore, not to re-open the Bathing Station.

CAMPING SITES.

There was one licenced camping site in the Borough. Estimated number of campers at any time during the year was 4.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

During the year ending 31st December, 1949, 16 New Council Houses were built and occupied and 8 New Houses for private enterprise. One large house was taken over by requisition and converted into 12 flats all of which were occupied.

There are now in the Borough 466 water closets in 358 dwellings and 385 pail closets.

All complaints received were investigated and matters attended to. The sewer ditch was cleaned of obstructions and vegetation along its whole length. A new length of 6 inch glazed sewer was constructed.

A small water main extension was installed, and a scheme to supply water to all farms in the Borough has been placed before the Ministry of Health.

The Godmanchester pottery works has now been converted into a food factory.

The details of inspections and other relevant matter is set out below.

Yours faithfully,

F. G. LANE, *Sanitary Inspector.*

INSPECTIONS.

Housing	...	...	...	137
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	46
Shops ...	...	...	...	48
Slaughter houses	...	...	...	12
After Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	4
Camp sites	...	...	...	1
Disinfection	...	...	...	4
Disinfestation	...	...	...	6
Bakehouses	...	...	...	8

7 informal notices were served and nuisances abated. 3 statutory notices were served and the nuisances abated.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts ...	...	...	...	137
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	137
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	—
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	—

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
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(4) Number of dwelling-houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	—
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2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	137
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners	—
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(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
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(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners	—
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(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
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(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders...	1
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(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	—

4 Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding.

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	—
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein				...	—
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein				...	—
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year		...	...	...	1
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	—
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases					12
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding			...	...	1
(e)		Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report					—

The housing shortage remained acute. There were approximately 100 applicants on the Borough list for Council Houses.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

MILK SUPPLY.

No. of Registered Cowkeepers and Wholesale Purveyors			10
No. of Registered Retail Purveyors ...	...	...	3
No. of Inspections, Cowsheds and Dairies ...	...	...	46
	In milking time	...	46
No. of Inspections, Retailers premises ...	...	...	9
No. of T.T. licences in force ...	...	...	4
No. of Accredited Licences in force ...	...	...	—
No. of Unclassified Licences in force ...	...	...	9

These inspections were made prior to 1st October, 1949, when the responsibility of inspection of Cowkeepers and Milk

Producers was taken over by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries under the Food and Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act, 1944.

MEAT.

No. of Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	2
No. of Inspections	...	...	...	...	12

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938.

This authorities duties under this Act (Sections 9-18, 21 (2), 31, 37-39) were transferred to Huntingdon County Council on 17th January, 1940.

OTHER FOODSTUFFS.

The following foodstuffs were condemned during the year—
Bacon 30 lbs., Sugar 96 lbs., Tinned pork loaf 4 lbs., and Tinned tomatoes 25 lbs.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

There were no cases of food poisoning reported during the year.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Incidence of Infectious Disease.

Scarlet Fever	...	Nil
Whooping Cough	...	3
Diphtheria	...	Nil
Measles ...	...	7
Acute Pneumonia	...	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	Nil
Typhoid Fever	...	Nil
Chicken Pox	...	10
Erysipelas ...	...	1
Jaundice ...	...	1

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

From figures available at 31st December, 1949, 79% of the estimated child population [0-14 years] had received a primary course of immunisation against diphtheria but only 55.8% of the Babies [0-4 years] were so protected.

Whereas these figures showed that almost 90% of children of school age are protected against this deadly disease, every effort must be sustained to encourage mothers to have their babies protected before school age.

Facilities for Diphtheria Immunisation are available at Infant Welfare Centres, through the School Medical Service and from General Practitioners.

Tuberculosis

Total No. on Register at 31st December, 1949 ... 10

Pulmonary ... 8 Non-Pulmonary ... 2

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...								
1 ...								
5 ...								
10 ...								
15 ...		2						
20 ...					1			
25 ...		1			1	1		
35 ...								
45 ...		1						
55 ...								
65 and upwards								
Total	...	4	...	...	2	1	...	...

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

